

(a) whether the Government are aware, 15 wagon load of valuable timber booked for Kongkorla railway station in Gujarat from Bhairabi railway station in Mizoram reached Badarpur railway junction of Karimganj District Assam while in transit;

(b) whether the timber with an approximate value of Rs. 5 crores is being smuggled out from Hailakandi district of Assam; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The State Government of Gujarat reported that the said material was detained by the railway police at Kankaria as per the fax message received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam. They have further intimated that on an enquiry conducted by a Forest Officer from Assam, the detained material was found to be procured legally.

(b) and (c) Information from Government of Assam is being collected and will be placed on the Table of House.

Stock Holding Limit

3574. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Bid to streamline PDS functioning," appearing in the 'Times of India', dated January 23, 1997;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry had earlier accused some State Governments of not enforcing the stock holding limit and other related laws to ensure fair distribution of wheat;

(c) the names of the said states and the details of laws not abided by them;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against these States ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No news-item with this caption has appeared in the Times of India dated 23rd January, 1997 (New Delhi edition).

(b) to (e) In December, 1996, the Central Government decided to reintroduce licensing and also to enforce stock-limits on wheat and wheat products with a view to contain the rising trend in the open market prices of wheat. Accordingly, all the State Governments/U.T. Administrations were advised to take necessary action in this regard. The State Governments of Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Orissa have brought wheat and its products under the purview of licensing and also enforced stock-limits on these Commodities. The State Governments of Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur & Chandigarh Administration have brought wheat under the purview of licensing. West Bengal has also imposed stock-limits on wheat. Other State Governments/ Union Territories are yet to respond.

[Translation]

Automobile Pollution

3575. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware that leaded petrol is the main cause for the automobile pollution in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have conducted or propose to conduct any enquiry regarding the pollution caused by the leaded Petrol in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to check the environmental pollution caused by the leaded petrol ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The main causes of vehicular pollution in the country are emissions from petrol and diesel vehicles.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board have conducted two major surveys in 1987 and in 1994 covering 12 metropolitan cities in the country including Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

(c) The level of air pollution in Ahmedabad due to vehicular pollution has risen from 243.94 tonnes per day in 1987 to 292.94 tonnes per day in 1994.

(d) The measures taken/planned by the Central Government to check the environmental pollution caused by leaded petrol include the following :

- (i) Low-lead petrol of 0.15 grams per litre was introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from 1.6.1994 and throughout the country from 1.1.1997.
- (ii) A major programme for introduction of unleaded petrol in the country is under implementation. As per this programme, unleaded petrol was introduced in the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from 1.4.1995 for new 4-wheeler petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters. In the next phase effective from 1.1.1999, the programme is planned to be extended to cover the capitals of all States and UTs and major cities in the country. Unleaded petrol is planned to be supplied through selected retail outlets in the entire country with effect from 1.4.2000.

[English]

Floriculture

3576. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote and encourage the floriculture in the country;

(b) the total area of land under floriculture at present indicating the sizeable increase in the area as compared to the previous two years;

(c) the names of countries to whom flowers are being exported presently alongwith the quantity being exported and the potential of export of flowers for the Ninth Plan Period; and

(d) the present size of condiment (masala) crop exported from the country and potential for export during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture in all the States/UTs of the country at a total cost of Rs. 14.29 crores. The National Horticulture Board provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan for integrated projects on floriculture on project basis. In addition APEDA (Ministry of Commerce) has Schemes for infrastructure development and market support for floriculture projects for exports.

(b) Statistics of area under floriculture at present are not available. As per the latest figures of 1992-93 available, the total area under floriculture was 50,351 hectares which was 19,442 hectares more than the area during 1991-92

(c) Quantity-wise figures for floriculture exports are not available. However, the destination countries and the value of exports of floriculture products during 1995-96 are given in the statement attached.

Floriculture exports are expected to grow by 20 per cent annually during the Ninth Plan.

(d) The total exports of spices during the current year (till February, 1997) is 193205 MT valued at Rs. 1017.40 crores. During 1995-96 the total exports were 202197 MT valued at Rs. 785.89 crores. During Ninth Plan Period (1997 to 2002) a total export of 1142065 MT is anticipated.

Statement

Export of Floriculture

(Value Rs in lakhs)

Country	1995-96 Value
1	2
U.S.A.	1778.05
Netherland	1280.62
Germany	774.74
Japan	609.40
U.K.	532.59
Italy	208.15
Sri Lanka	50.50
France	84.22
U.A.E.	71.21
Spain	65.97
Saudi Arabia	62.08
Australia	42.05
Hongkong	40.07
Ireland	37.25
Belgium	36.94
Chines Taipei	26.42
Isreal	25.27
Egypt	24.95